Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /101 W

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R 110558Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7803

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL JAKARTA 8278

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US, ID

SUBJECT: REPORTED MALIK STATEMENT RE U.S. BASES IN THAILAND

REF: A. BANGKOK 10556 B. JAKARTA 2330

1. OFFICIAL GOI POSITION ON U.S. BASES IN THAILAND TO BEST
OF OUR KNOWLEDGE REMAINS AS STATED BY SUHARTO TO WHITLAM
LAST FEBRUARY - "THAT EVENTUAL REMOVAL OF U.S. BASES FROM
SOUTHEAST ASIA IS DESIRABLE BUT THAT IN INTERIM PERIOD SUCH
BASES ARE USEFUL AND THAT INDONESIA BELIEVED THAILAND MUST
MAKE ITS OWN DECISION REGARDING THE BASES THERE" (PARA 3 REF B).
SHOULD GOI POSITION ON BASES CHANGE, NEW POLICY WOULD BE
MADE BY SUHARTO AFTER CONFERRING WITH SENIOR MILITARY
AND CIVILIAN ADVISORS, RATHER THAN BY MALIK ALONE.
IT IS ALSO UNLIKELY THAT ANY SUCH NEW POLICY WOULD
BE MADE PUBLIC THROUGH MEDIUM OF SINGAPORE NEW NATION
ARTICLE.

2. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE THAT A) MALIK ACTUALLY SAID SOMETHING MUCH CLOSER TO OFFICIAL POSITION AS CONFIDENTIAL

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OUTLINED ABOVE, BUT WAS MISQUOTED IN WHOLE OR PART (HE IS

FREQUENTLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND AND ALMOST ALWAYS REQUIRES INTERPRETATION WHEN SPEAKING IN ENGLISH), OR B) MALIK - AS IS SOMETIMES HIS WONT - TALKED CARELESSLY WITHOUT SUFFICIENT REGARD TO ESTABLISHED GOI POLICY. WE DO NOT IN ANY CASE BELIEVE HIS REMARKS WERE INTENDED TO PRESAGE A CHANGE IN GOI POLICY FROM THAT ENUNCIATED BY SUHARTO ABOVE. GALBRAITH

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NNN

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